

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1           1.       An apparatus for supporting milk extraction devices comprising:  
2                   an elongated elastic strap that is adjusted to frictionally engage a woman's  
3       breasts;  
4                   a pair of slits formed in the elastic strip, wherein each of the slits is  
5       positioned proximate the woman's breasts and configured to support a milk extraction  
6       device therethrough; and  
7                   wherein each of the slits is a collapsible opening that alternates between a  
8       closed position when the milk extraction device is not supported by the slit and a partially  
9       opened position when the milk extraction device is supported by the slit.

1           2.       The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the milk extraction device  
2       includes a circular suction device and the elongated elastic strip substantially covers the  
3       majority of the surface area of the circular suction device after the suction device is  
4       inserted into the slit.

1           3.       The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a neck strap  
2       having a first portion and a second portion, wherein a first end of the first portion and a  
3       second end of the second portion are attached proximate each of the slits in the elastic  
4       strap, and a second end of the first portion is attached to a first end of the second portion.

1           4.       The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first end of the first  
2       portion of the neck strap and the second end of the second portion of the neck strap are  
3       permanently attached to the elastic strap and the second end of the first portion is  
4       temporarily attached to the first end of the second portion.

1           5.       The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic strap further  
2       includes temporary closure means to adjust the friction between the elastic strap and the  
3       woman's breasts.

1           6.       The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the temporary closure means  
2 is located between the pair of slits.

1           7.       The apparatus according to claim 1, further including a pair of privacy  
2 flaps attached above each of the slits and configured to partially cover the milk extraction  
3 device.

1           8.       The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the pair of privacy flaps are  
2 temporarily attached to the elastic strap.

1           9.       An apparatus for supporting milk extraction devices comprising:  
2 an elongated elastic strap that is adjusted to frictionally engage a woman's  
3 breasts;  
4 a pair of collapsible openings formed in the elastic strip, wherein each of  
5 the collapsible openings is positioned proximate the woman's breasts and configured to  
6 support a milk extraction device therethrough; and  
7 wherein the milk extraction device includes a circular suction cup and the  
8 elongated elastic strip substantially covers the majority of the surface area of the circular  
9 suction cup when the suction cup is inserted into the collapsible opening.

1           10.      The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a neck strap  
2 having a first portion and a second portion, wherein a first end of first portion and a  
3 second end of the second portion are attached proximate each of the collapsible openings  
4 in the elastic strap, and a second end of the first portion is attached to a first end of the  
5 second portion.

1           11.      The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first end of the first  
2 portion of the neck strap and the second end of the second portion of the neck strap are

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3 permanently attached to the elastic strap and the second end of the first portion is  
4 temporarily attached to the first end of the second portion.

1 ~~10~~ 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the elastic strap further  
2 includes temporary closure means to adjust the friction between the elastic strap and the  
3 woman's breasts.

1 ~~11~~ 13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the temporary closure  
2 means is located between the pair of slits.

1 14. The apparatus according to claim 9, further including a pair of privacy  
2 flaps attached above each of the slits and configured to partially cover the milk extraction  
3 device.

1 15. A nursing/pumping brassiere comprising:  
2 a front panel configured to support a woman's breast;  
3 a middle panel partially attached to the front panel, wherein the middle  
4 panel includes a slit formed therein and positioned proximate the woman's breast,  
5 wherein the slit supports a milk extraction device therethrough and alternates between a  
6 closed position when the milk extraction device is not supported by the slit and a partially  
7 opened position when the milk extraction device is supported by the slit;  
8 a rear panel adjacent to the woman's breast, wherein the rear panel  
9 includes attachment means for supporting the middle panel.

1 16. The nursing/pumping brassiere according to claim 15, wherein the  
2 attachment means includes a plurality of eyes, and the middle panel includes a hook  
3 configured to engage one of the plurality of hooks.

1           20.     The nursing/pumping brassiere according to claim 17, wherein the front  
2     panel and the middle panel are unhooked to expose the woman's breast to nurse a baby.